

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

This amendment merely reflects a clarification to certain claim language, without changing the scope of the claims. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification as filed, at page 4, lines 8-13, for example. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,590 issued to Mendez, et al. ("Mendez") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,647,002 issued to Brunson, et al. ("Brunson '002"). Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

According to page 3 of the Office Action, Mendez teaches the invention substantially as claimed, including a method for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user. The Office Action refers to Figure 8 of Mendez, and mail server 850, as allegedly disclosing that mail server 850 receives and stores e-mail messages at client e-mails 875 from a global server, addressed to a client 840.

Applicants' claim 1 refers to a method in which a number of e-mail messages addressed to the user are received at a local server, from an external e-mail server, and stored in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server. The consolidated e-mail storage is one that reflects the last updated, combined e-mail for the user. In other words, the consolidated storage accurately reflects all of the last updated e-mail for the user. Such is not taught or suggested in Mendez, because the mail server 850 has no e-mail synchronization mechanism associated with it. Although it is true that in Mendez, e-mail synchronization system 860 is provided to synchronize the downloaded e-mails 865 with a global server 835, there is no teaching or suggestion that, for example, the downloaded e-mails 865 reflect the last updated, combined e-mail for the user. Indeed, the e-mail synchronization module of Mendez is to determine whether to send an e-mail to another mail store where this other mail store may be located on a global server.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that it is the global server 830 that reflects the last updated, combined e-mail for the user, there is no teaching or suggestion that, for example, the synchronization agent 885 in the global server 830 be modified to perform operations C and D of Applicants' claim 1, of storing a message identifier for each e-mail message at a local server and determine whether an e-mail message in the consolidated storage has been deleted from an external server, and if so, deleting the e-mail message from the consolidated storage.

The Office Action cites Brunson '002 for a technique of synchronizing an e-mail mailbox and a voicemail system for the same user. However, Brunson '002 does not teach or suggest modification of its synchronization technique to apply to a system in which there is a consolidated e-mail storage at a local server, from one or more external e-mail servers, in which an e-mail control performs operations A-C as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

A similar amendment has been made to independent claims 10, 13, and 22 without changing the scope of those claims. Each of those claims refers to the consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, that reflects the last updated, combined e-mail for the user, and where a determination is made as to whether an e-mail message in the consolidated storage has been deleted from the external server, and if so, then the e-mail message is deleted from the consolidated storage. Mendez does not teach or suggest such a consolidated e-mail storage.

CONCLUSION

In sum, a good faith attempt has been made to explain why the rejection of the claims is improper in view of the cited prior art, and to clarify the claims. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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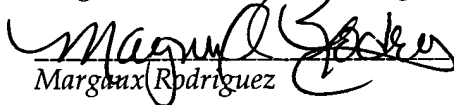
Dated: August 3, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on August 3, 2005.


Margaux Rodriguez August 3, 2005